

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-22 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claims 22-35 have been added by the present amendment without the introduction of any new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bedini (U.S. Patent No. 4,644,422); and Claims 4-7, 11-17 and 19-20 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, new Claims 22-35 have been added. In particular, new independent Claims 22-24, 27-29 and 34 and 35 essentially correspond to dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-13, 19 and 20, respectively, rewritten in independent form. Further, new dependent Claims 25 and 26 essentially correspond to dependent Claims 6 and 7, respectively, but depend from new independent Claim 24. Additionally, new dependent Claims 30-33 essentially correspond to dependent Claims 14-17, respectively, but depend from new independent Claim 29.

Applicants submit that no new matter is added. As previously noted, new independent Claim 22 essentially corresponds to original Claim 2, rewritten in independent form. Applicant has incorporated the features of orginal Claim 2, previously canceled without prejudice, into new independent Claim 22 and believes that new independent Claim 22 is also allowable because orginal Claim 2 contains subject matter that is similar to previously presented Claim 19. New Claims 22-35 have been modified with respect to their respective original claims to better conform with standard U.S. claim drafting practice.

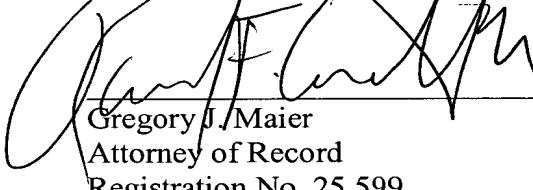
- Application No. 09/106,858
- Reply to Office Action of July 24, 2003.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bedini. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 18 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, that rejection is moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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